intent to threaten the unity or integrity of India or to strike terror in any section of the people by using weapons and explosive substances or other methods in a manner as to cause or likely to cause death or injuries to any person or persons or loss or demage to property or disruption of essential supplies and services, etc. It also brings within its ambit the offences relating to organisations declared as terrorist organisations, financing of terorrism and possession of weapons of mass destruction etc.

Reservations expressed by various forums on POTO

1726. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious reservation expressed by the various political parties, some State Governments, several intellectual foras editors guild, journalists and lawyers on the provisions of Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (POTO) promulgated recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to discuss the provisions of POTO across the table and be willing to tone down some of the provisions objected to; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) Opinions both for and against the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001 (POTO) have been expressed in different quarters. The Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001 (POTO) will be discussed in Parliament when a Bill to replace the Ordinance is introduced during the current Session. The Government is prepared to consider specific suggestions in order to insure that innocent persons are not subjected to harassment/victimization. It is also proposed to discuss the Ordinance in an all party meeting before the replacement Bill is introduced.

Terrorist camps in PoK

†1727. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is running training camps for the terrorists in Pak occupied Kashmir;

(b) if so, the necessary action taken by Government to destroy the said camps; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.